

FIG. 1

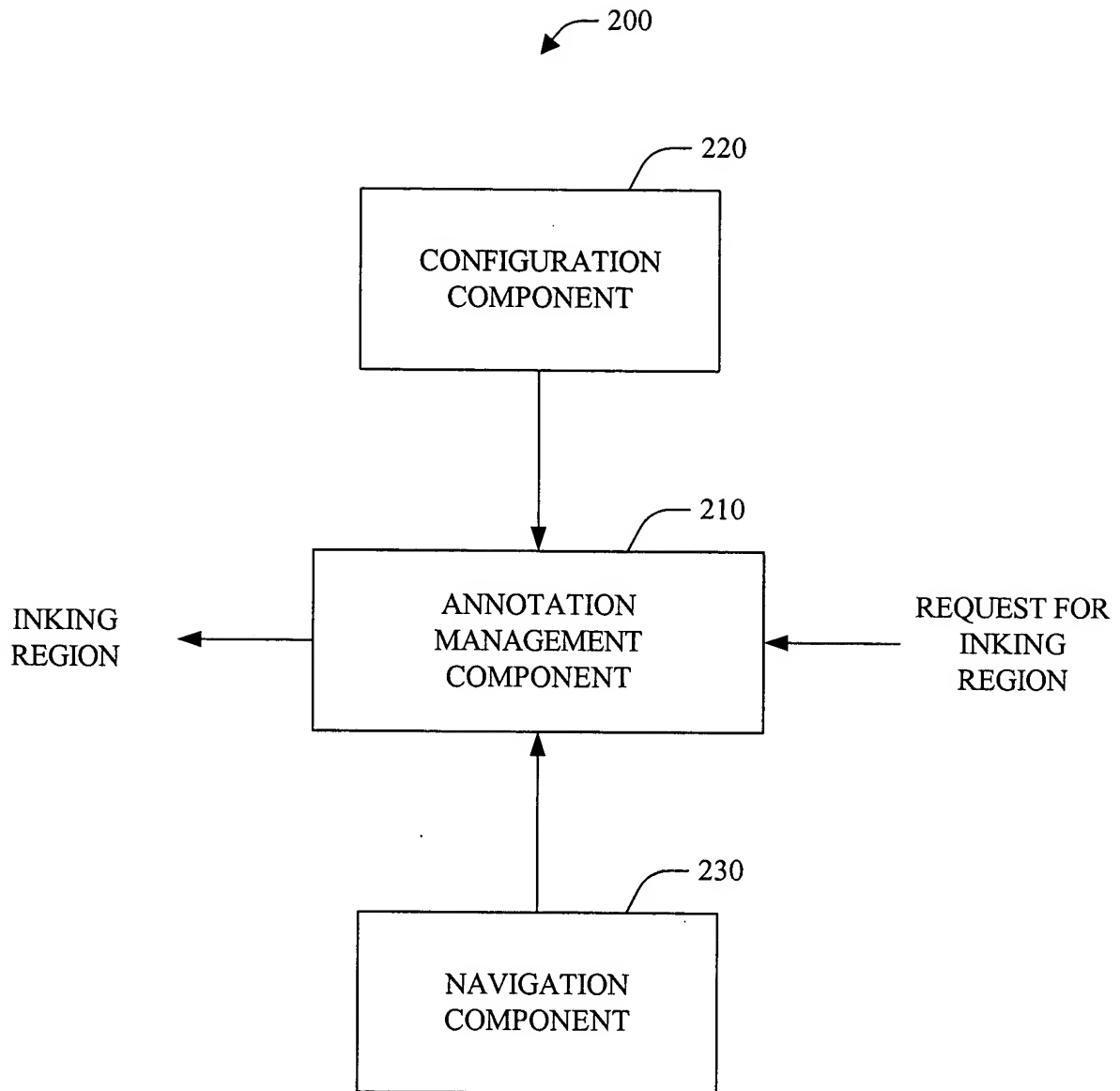


FIG. 2

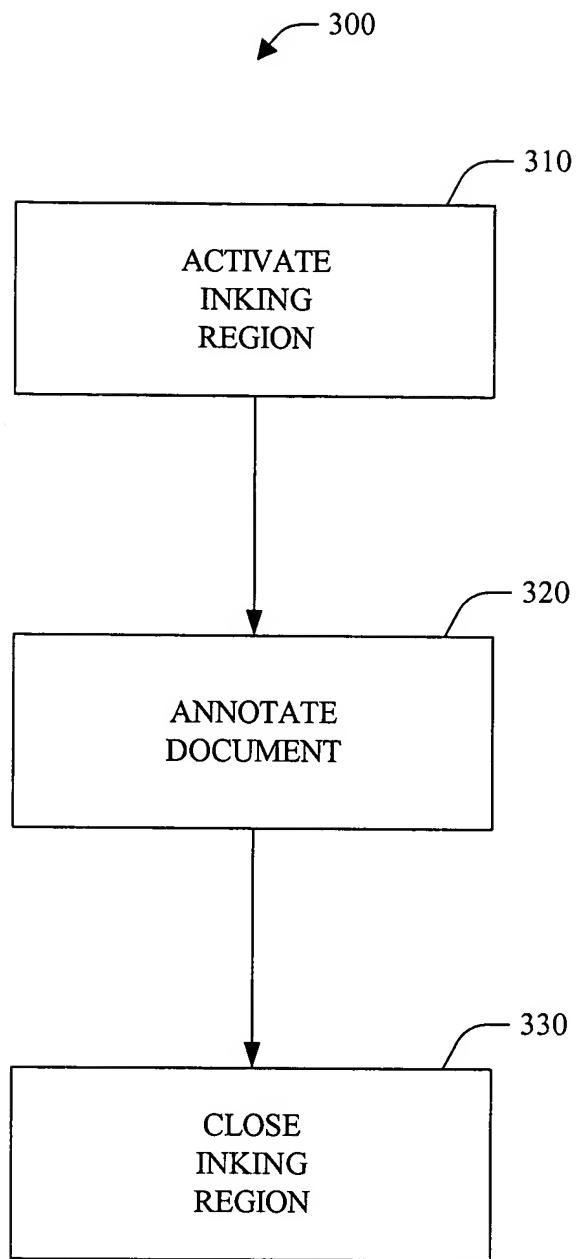


FIG. 3

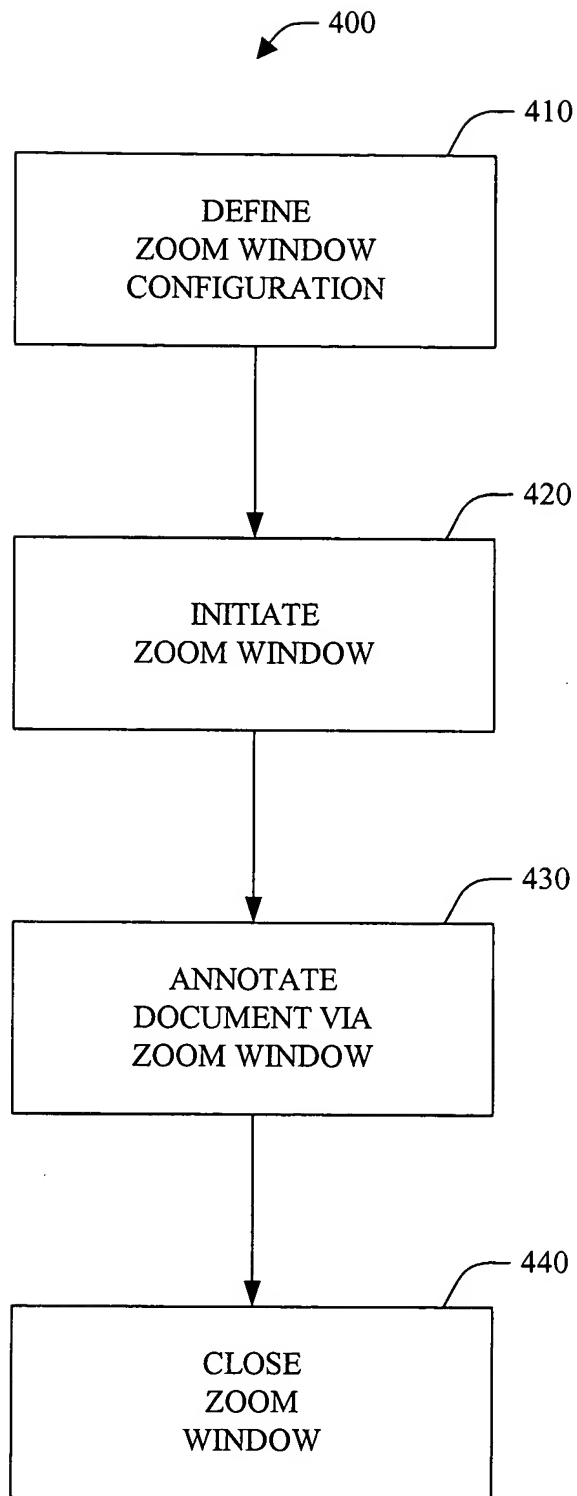


FIG. 4

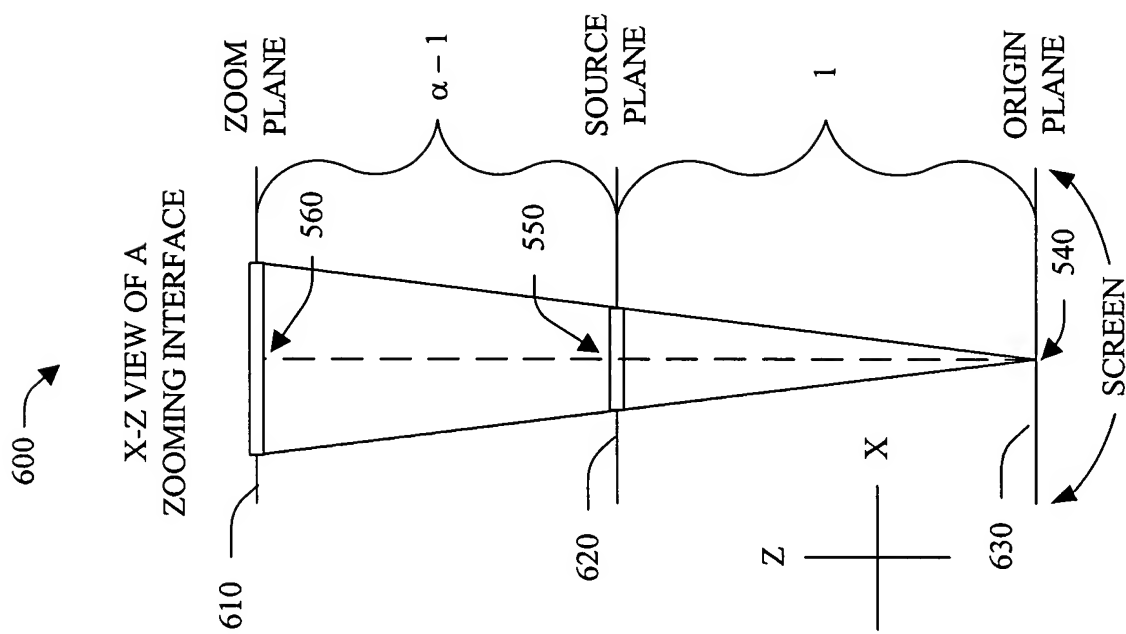


FIG. 5

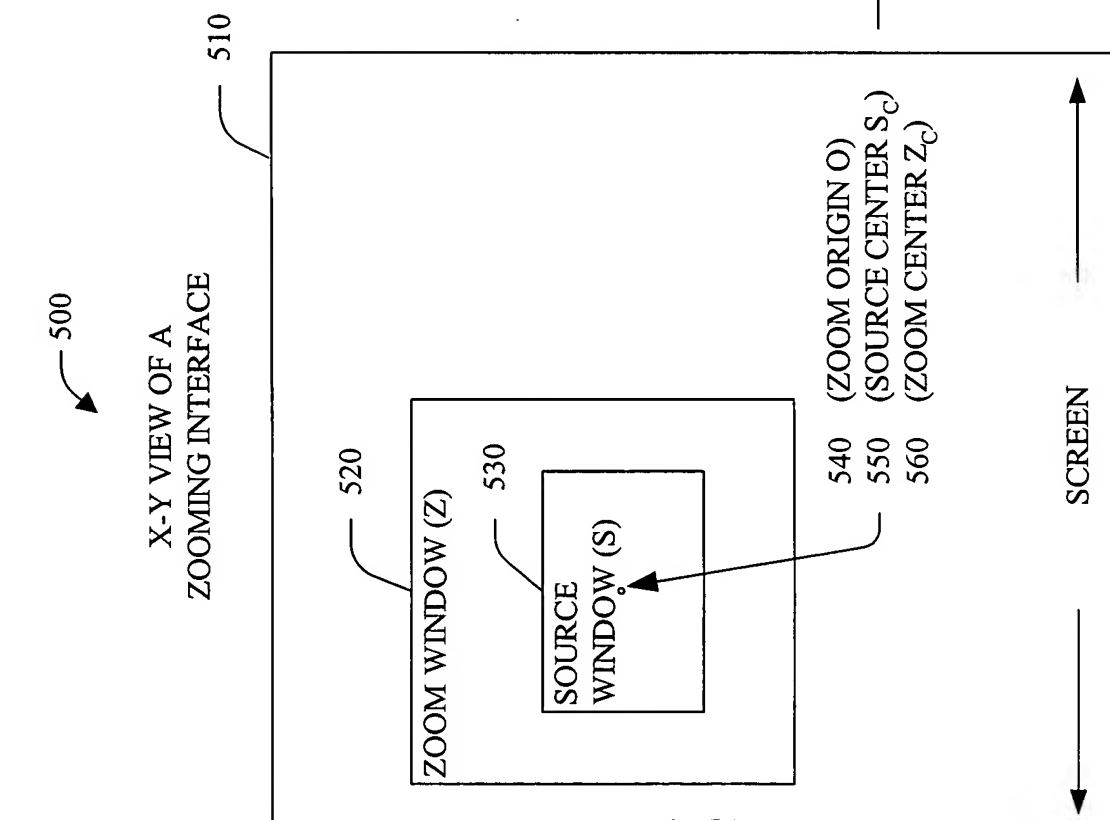


FIG. 6

700

X-Y VIEW OF A
ZOOMING INTERFACE

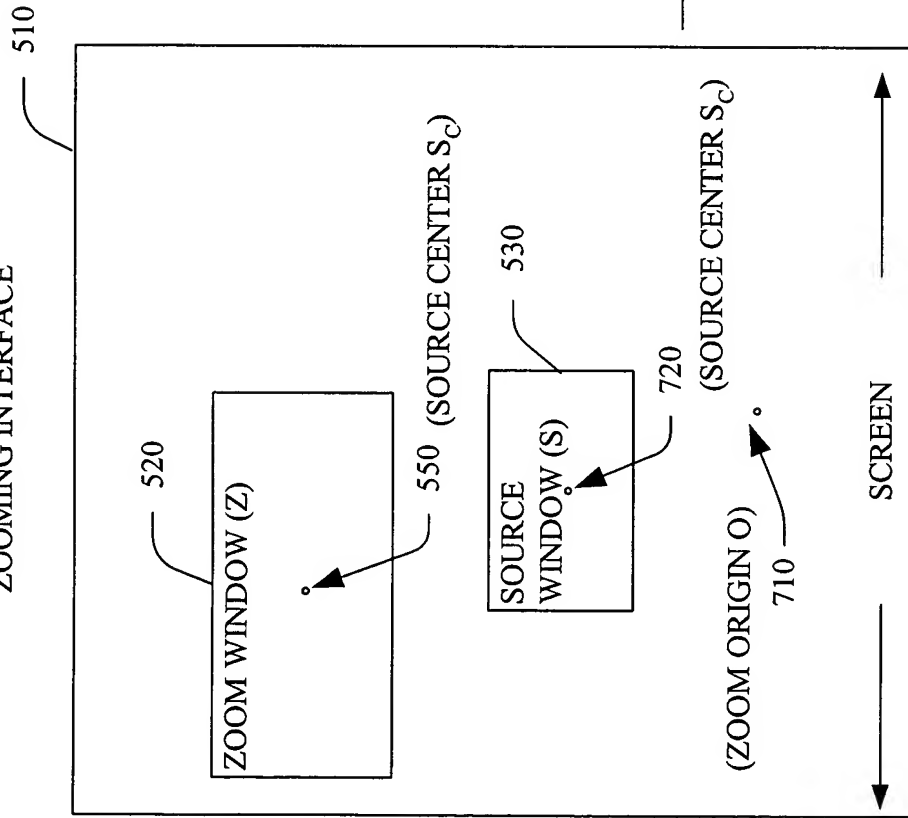


FIG. 7

800

X-Z VIEW OF A
ZOOMING INTERFACE

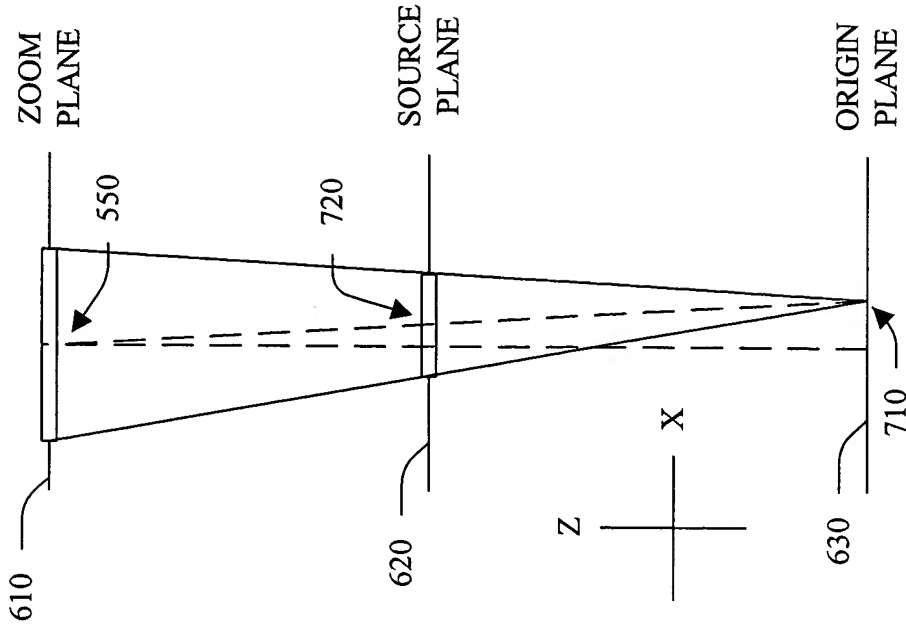


FIG. 8

900

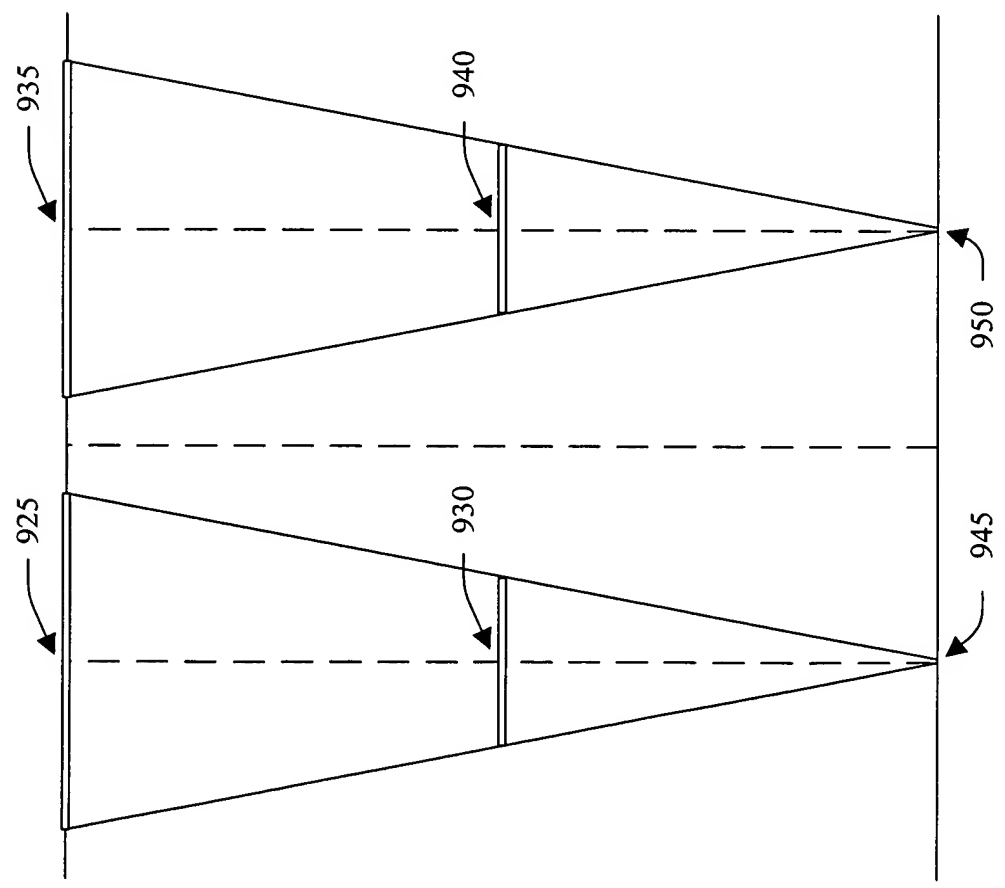
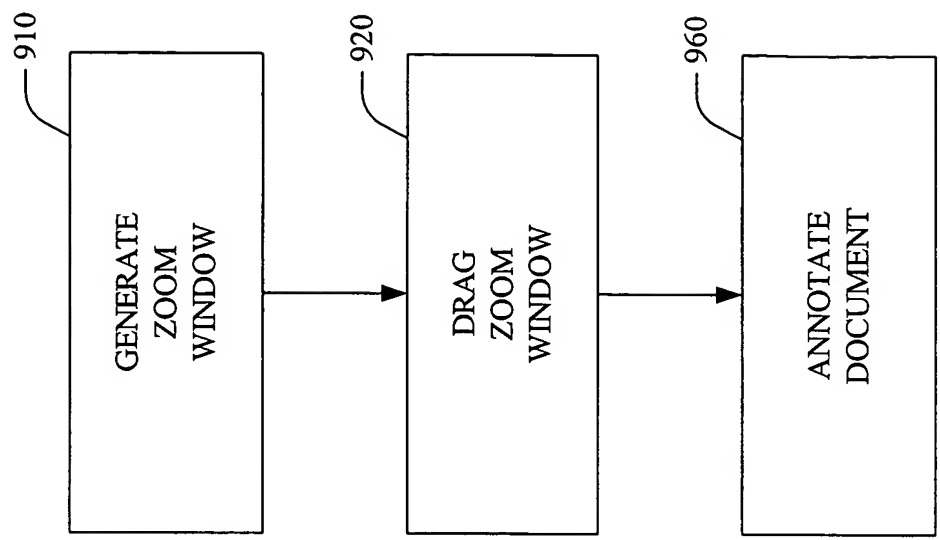


FIG. 9

1000

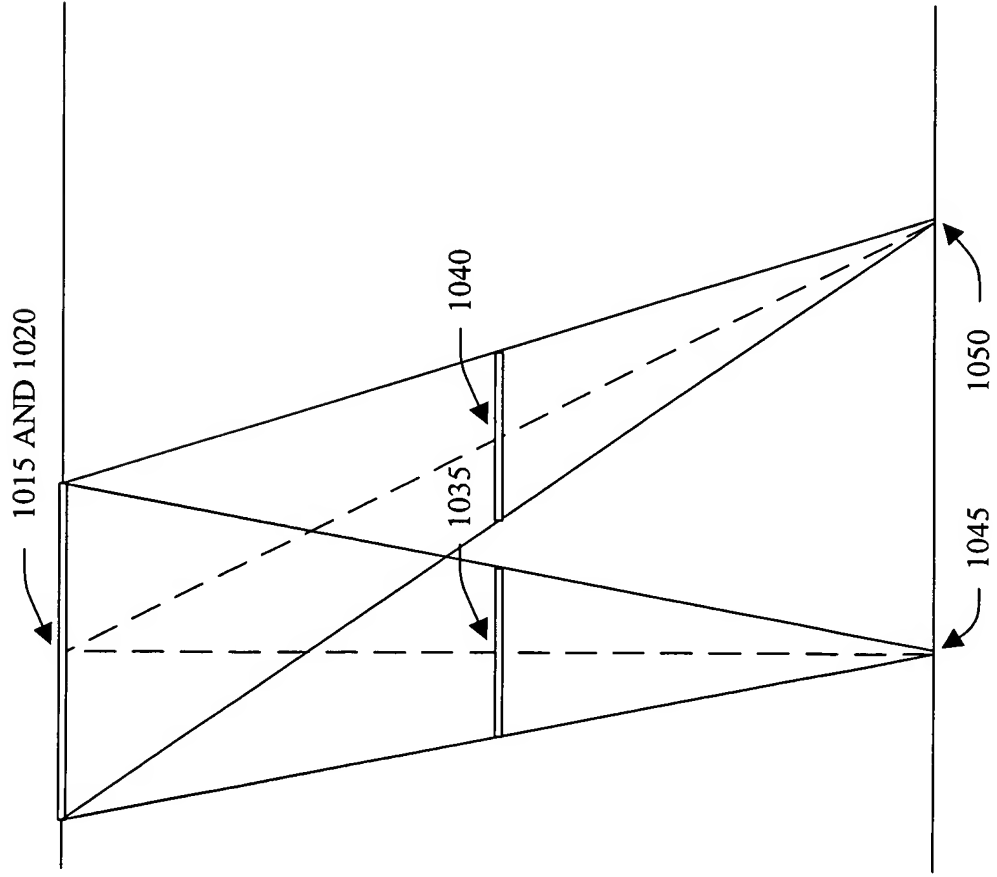
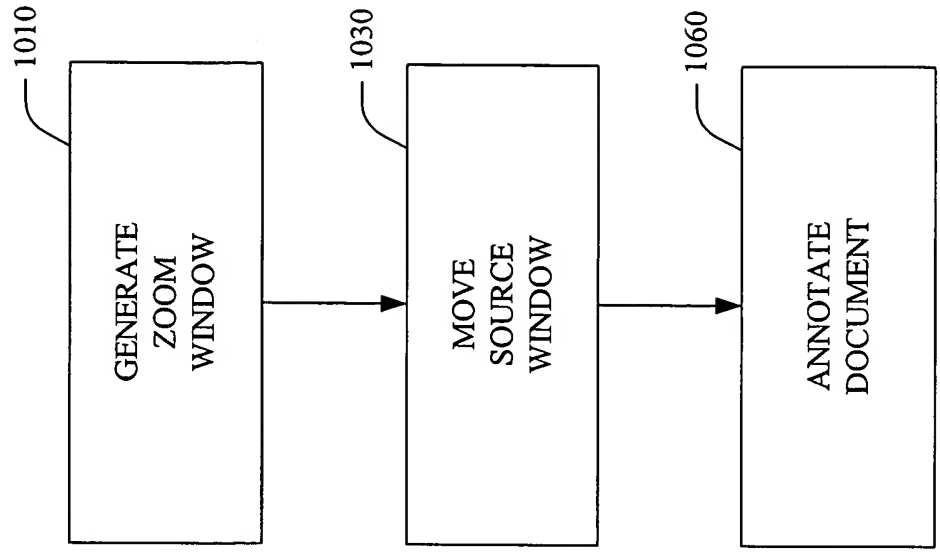


FIG. 10

1100

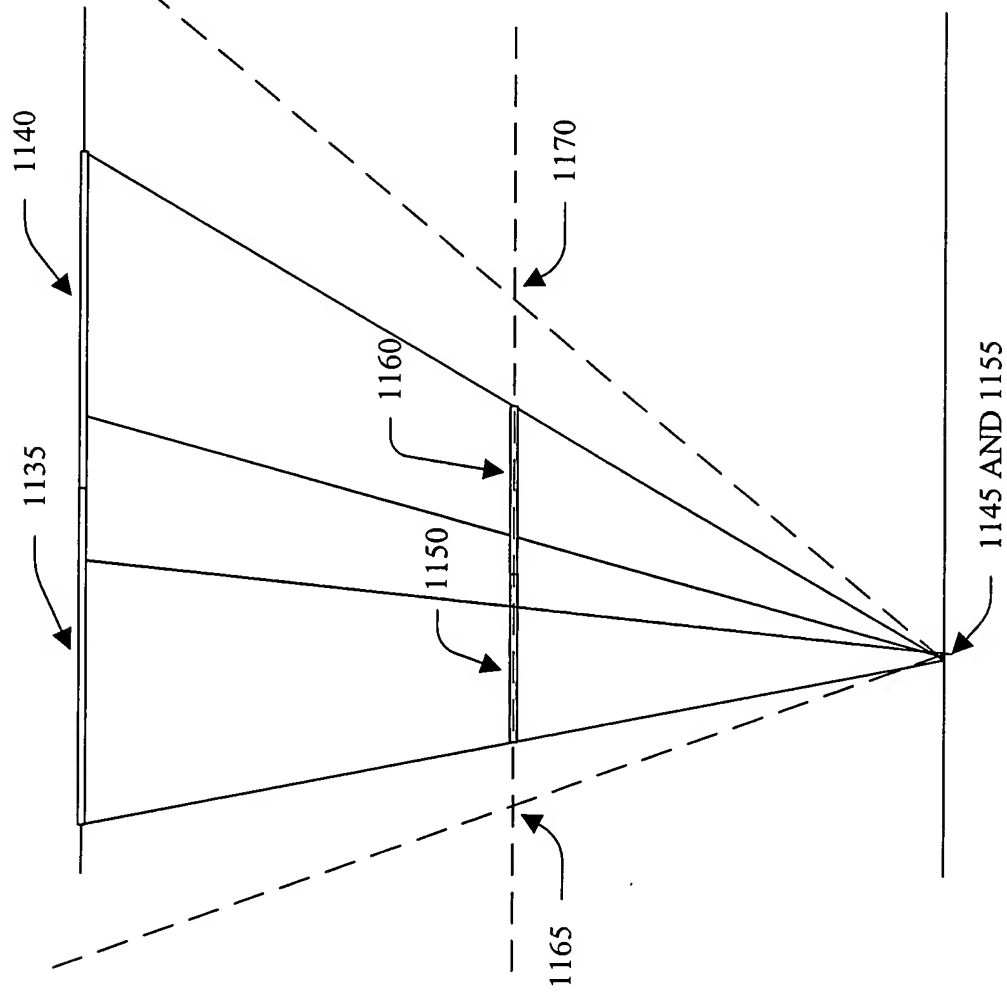
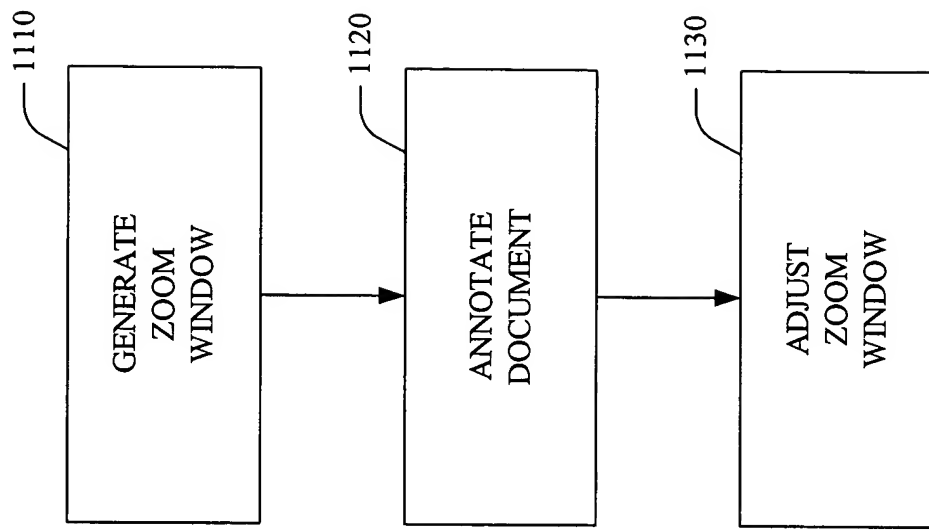


FIG. 11

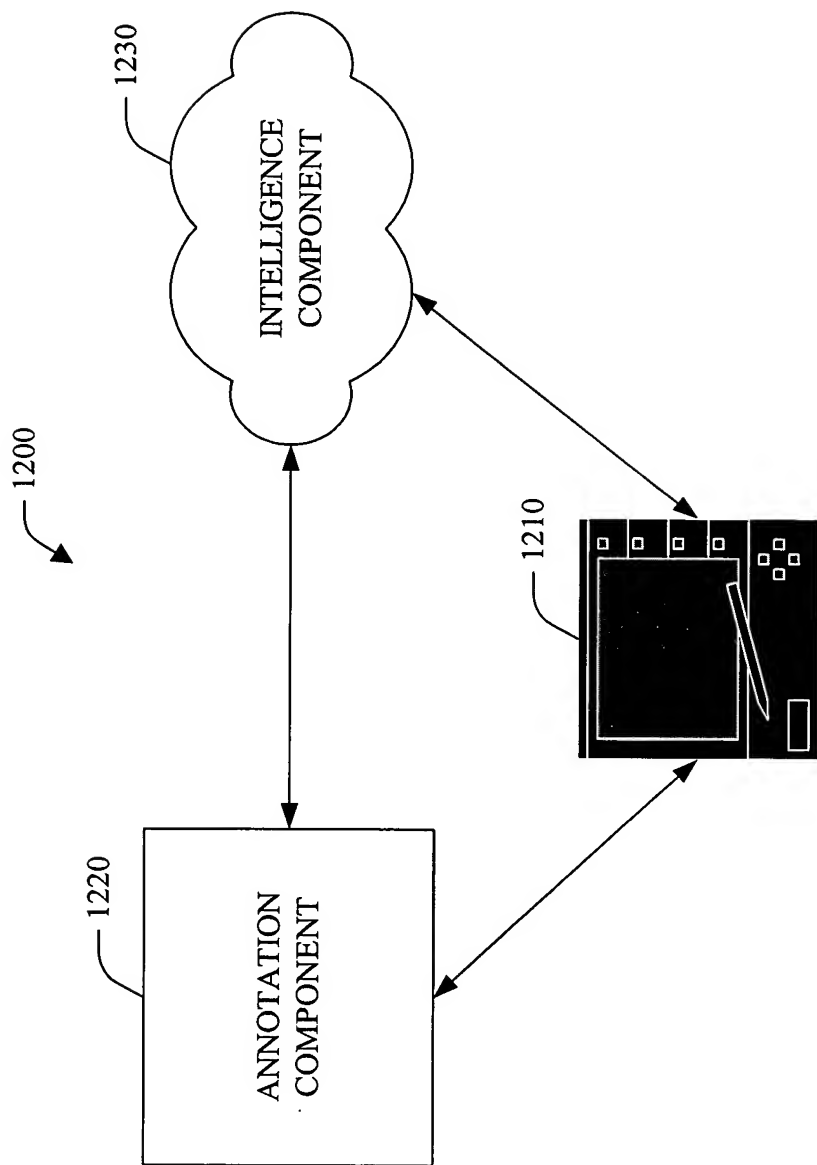


FIG. 12

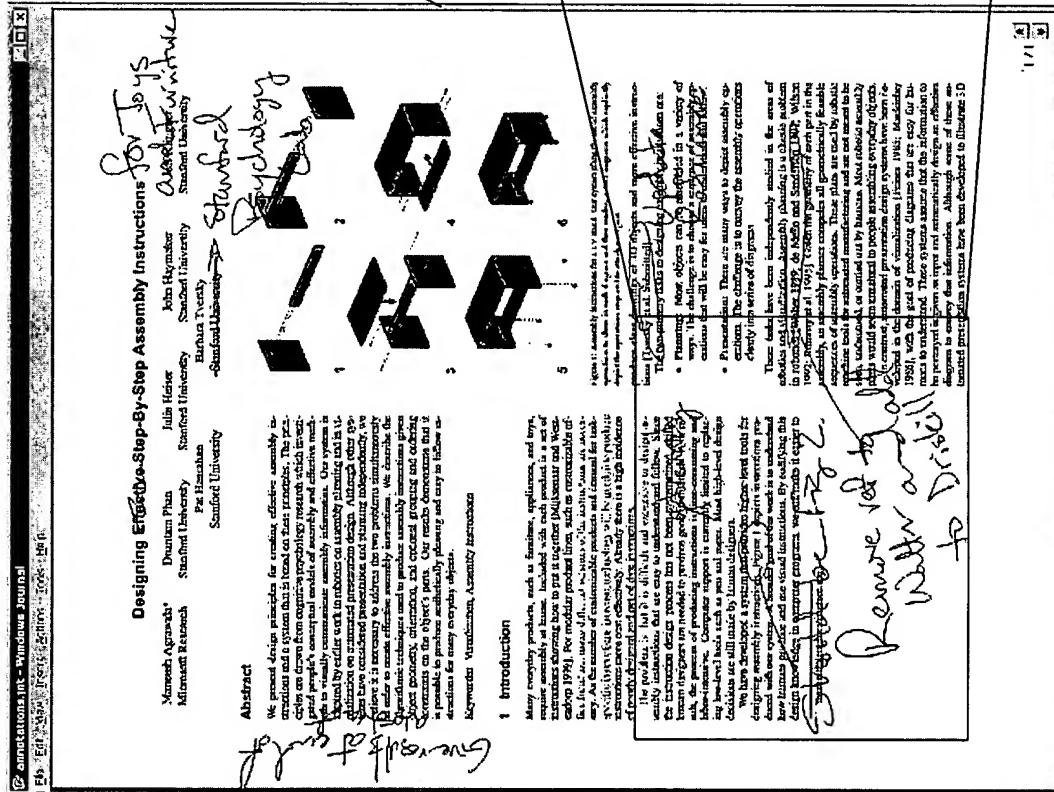


FIG. 13

Designing Effective Step-By-Step Assembly Instructions for Toys and Furniture

Manesh Agrawala* Dantam Phan Julie Hesser
Microsoft Research Stanford University Stanford University
Pa Hanrahan
Stanford University

Abstract

We present design principles for creating effective assembly instructions and a system that is based on these principles. The principles are drawn from cognitive psychology research which investigated people's conceptual models of assembly and effective methods to visually communicate assembly information. Our system is inspired by earlier work in robotics on assembly planning and in visualization of assembly information. We describe the system and its design principles. We believe it is necessary to address the two problems simultaneously in order to create effective assembly instructions. We describe the algorithmic techniques used to produce assembly instructions given object geometry, orientation, and optional grouping and ordering constraints on the object's parts. Our results demonstrate that it is possible to produce aesthetically pleasing and easy to follow instructions for many everyday objects.

Keywords: Visualization, Assembly Instructions

1 Introduction

Many everyday products, such as furniture, appliances, and toys, require assembly at home. Included with each product is a set of instructions showing how to put it together [Mikvenc and Westerman 1999]. For modular product lines, such as customizable office furniture, many different versions of the instructions are necessary. Computer support is currently limited to replacing low-level tools such as pen and paper. Most high-level design decisions are still made by human designers.

We have developed a system that provides higher-level tools for designing assembly instructions (Figure 1). It depicts instructions produced with our system. A broader part of our work is to understand how humans produce and use visual instructions. By codifying this design knowledge in computer programs we can make it easier to

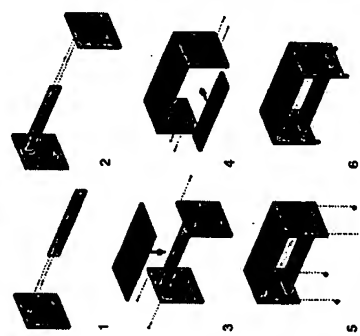


Figure 1: Assembly instructions for a TV stand. Our system produces a set of assembly instructions that are easy to understand and follow. The instructions are depicted in a series of diagrams which capture the operation of each step.

presenting assembly instructions of 3D objects and using effective instructions to help designers understand the assembly process. The two primary tasks in designing assembly instructions are:

- **Planning:** Most objects can be assembled in a variety of ways. The challenge is to select a sequence of assembly operations that will be easy for users to understand and follow.
- **Presentation:** There are many ways to depict assembly operations. The challenge is to convey the assembly operations clearly in a series of diagrams.

These tasks have been independently studied in the areas of robotics and visualization. Assembly planning is a classic problem in robotics [Guthrie 1989, de Mello and Sutcliffe 1991]. Wilton [1991] and others have studied the geometry of each part in the assembly and the sequence of assembly operations. These plans are used by robotic machine tools for automated manufacturing and are not meant to be seen, understood, or carried out by humans. Most robotic assembly plans would seem unnatural to people assembling everyday objects. In contrast, automated presentation design systems have been developed in the domain of visualization [Feiner 1985, Mackinlay 1986], with the goal of producing diagrams that are easy for humans to understand. These systems have been used to present information to be portrayed in given as input and automatically design an effective diagram to convey that information. Although some of these automated presentation systems have been developed to illustrate 3D

The problem is that it is difficult and expensive to design assembly instructions that are easy to understand and follow. Since the instruction design process has not been systematized, skilled human designers are needed to produce good instructions. As a result, the process of producing instructions is time-consuming and labor-intensive. Computer support is currently limited to replacing low-level tools such as pen and paper. Most high-level design decisions are still made by human designers.

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*manesh@graphics.stanford.edu

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FIG. 14

Designing Effective Step-By-Step Assembly Instructions

Manoosh Agrawala*
Microsoft Research

Dontam Phan
Stanford University
Pat Haarmann
Stanford University

Julie Heiser
Stanford University
Barbara Tversky
Stanford University

John Haymaker
Stanford University
Barbara Tversky
Stanford University

Jeff Klingner
Stanford University

Abstract

We present design principles for creating effective assembly instructions and a system that is based on these principles. The principles are drawn from cognitive psychology research which investigated people's conceptual models of assembly and effective methods to visually communicate assembly information. Our system is inspired by earlier work in robotics on assembly planning and in visualization on automated presentation design. Although other systems have considered presentation and planning independently, we believe it is necessary to address the two problems simultaneously in order to create effective assembly instructions. We describe the algorithmic techniques used to produce assembly instructions given object geometry, orientation, and optional grouping and ordering constraints on the object's parts. Our results demonstrate that it is possible to produce aesthetically pleasing and easy to follow instructions for many everyday objects.

Keywords: assembly instructions

1 Introduction

Many everyday products, such as furniture, require assembly at home. Included with each product are instructions showing how to put it together (Miksenar and Endrop 1999). For modular product lines, such as customizable office furniture, many different versions of the instructions are necessary. As the number of customizable products and demand for task-specific instructions increase, technology will be needed to produce instructions more cost effectively. Already there is a high incidence of poorly designed and out of date instructions.

The problem is that it is difficult and expensive to design assembly instructions that are easy to understand and follow. Since the instruction design process has not been systematized, skilled human designers are needed to produce good instructions. As a result, the process of producing instructions is time-consuming and labor-intensive. Computer support is currently limited to replacing low-level tools such as pen and paper. Most high-level design decisions are still made by human designers.

We have developed a system that provides higher-level tools for designing assembly instructions. Figure 1 depicts instructions produced with our system. A broader goal of our work is to understand how humans produce and use visual instructions. By codifying this design knowledge in computer programs we can make it easier to

*manoosh@graphics.stanford.edu

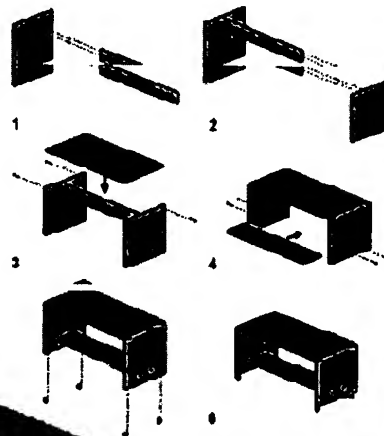


Figure 1: Instructions for a stool. Our system plans the set of assembly operations to show in this sequence and then renders action diagrams which help highlight the operations required to assemble the part.

produce clear drawings of 3D objects and more effective instructions (Tversky et al. Submitted).

The two primary tasks in designing assembly instructions are:

- **Planning:** Most objects can be assembled in a variety of ways. The challenge is to choose a sequence of assembly operations that will be easy for users to understand and follow.
- **Presentation:** There are many ways to depict assembly operations. The challenge is to convey the assembly operations clearly in a series of diagrams.

These tasks have been independently studied in the areas of robotics and visualization. Assembly planning is a classic problem in robotics (Wilner 1980; de Mello and Sanghavi 1981; Wilner 1982; Romney et al. 1993). Given the geometry of each part in the assembly, an assembly planner computes all geometrically feasible sequences of assembly operations. These plans are used by robotic machine tools for automated manufacturing and are not meant to be seen, understood, or carried out by humans. Most robotic assembly plans would seem unnatural to people assembling everyday objects.

In contrast, automated presentation design systems have been developed in the domain of visualization (Feiner 1983; Mackinlay 1986) with the goal of producing diagrams that are easy for humans to understand. These systems assume that the information to be portrayed is given as input and automatically design an effective diagram to convey that information. Although some of these automated presentation systems have been developed to illustrate 3D

FIG. 15

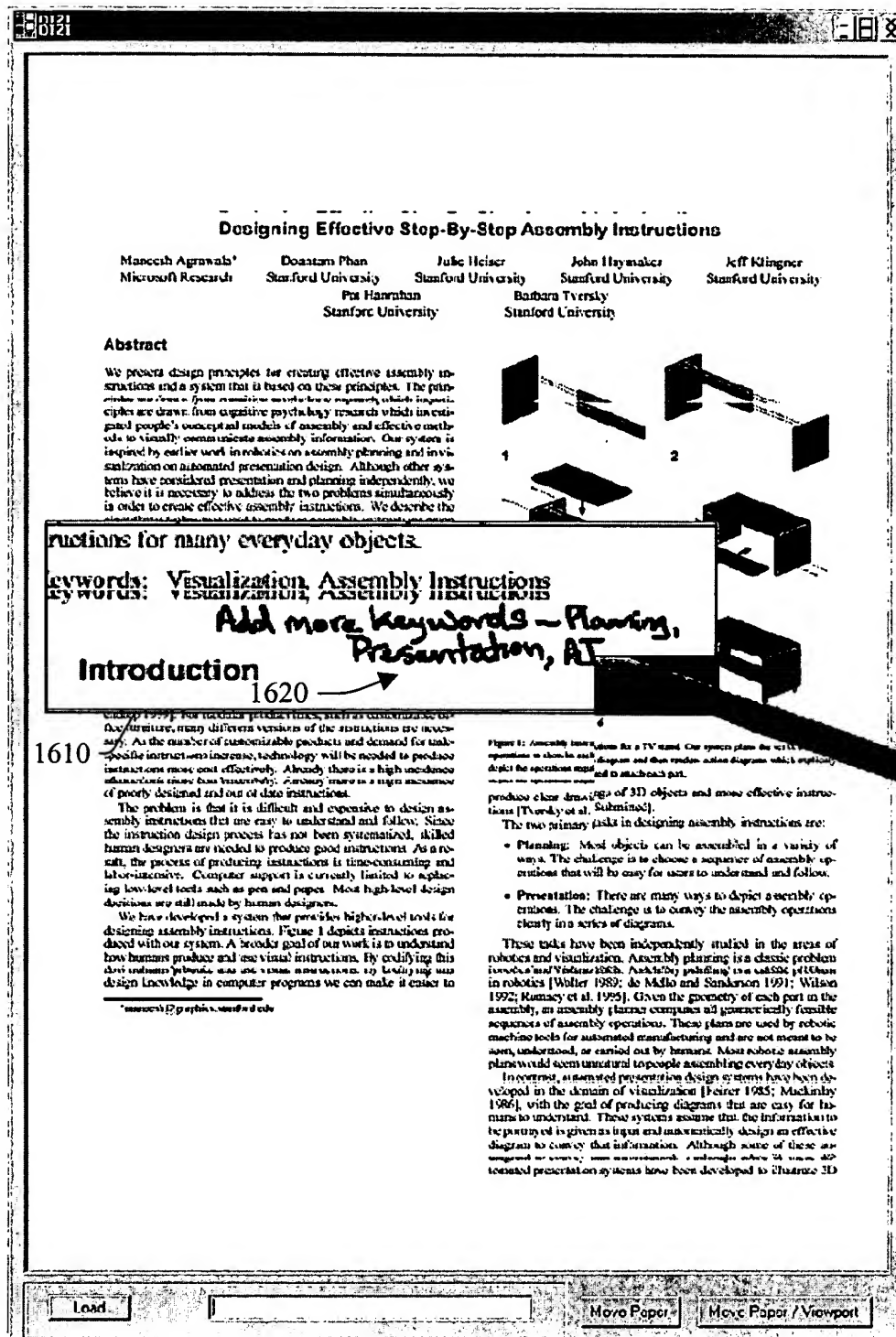


FIG. 16

Designing Effective Step-By-Step Assembly Instructions

Maneesh Agrawala*
Microsoft Research

Doantram Phan
Stanford University

Julie Heiser
Stanford University

John Haymaker
Stanford University

Jeff Klingner
Stanford University

Pat Hanrahan
Stanford University

Barbara Tversky
Stanford University

Abstract

We present design principles for creating effective assembly instructions and a system that is based on these principles. The principles are drawn from cognitive psychology research which investigated people's conceptual models of assembly and effective methods to visually communicate assembly information. Our system is inspired by earlier work in robotics on assembly planning and in visualization on automated presentation design. Although other systems have considered presentation and planning independently, we believe it is necessary to address the two problems simultaneously in order to create effective assembly instructions. We describe the algorithmic techniques used to produce assembly instructions given object geometry, orientation, and optional grouping and ordering constraints on the object's parts. Our results demonstrate that it is possible to produce aesthetically pleasing and easy to follow instructions for many everyday objects.

Keywords: Visualization, Assembly Instructions

Add more keywords - Planning, Presentation, AI

1 Introduction

Many everyday products, such as furniture, appliances, and toys, require assembly at home. Included with each product is a set of instructions showing how to put it together [Mijksenaar and Westendorp 1999]. For modular product lines, such as customizable office furniture, many different versions of the instructions are necessary. As the number of customizable products and demand for task-specific instructions increase, technology will be needed to produce instructions more cost effectively. Already there is a high incidence of poorly designed and out of date instructions.

The problem is that it is difficult and expensive to design assembly instructions that are easy to understand and follow. Since the instruction design process has not been systematized, skilled human designers are needed to produce good instructions. As a result, the process of producing instructions is time-consuming and cost, the process of producing instructions is time-consuming and labor-intensive. Computer support is currently limited to replacing low-level tools such as pen and paper. Most high-level design decisions are still made by human designers.

We have developed a system that provides higher-level tools for designing assembly instructions. Figure 1 depicts instructions produced with our system. A broader goal of our work is to understand how humans produce and use visual instructions. By codifying this design knowledge in computer programs we can make it easier to

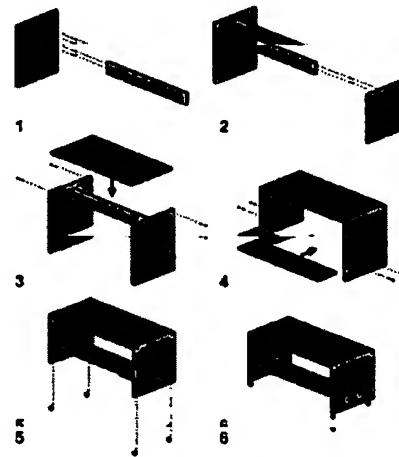


Figure 1: Assembly instructions for a TV stand. Our system plans the set of assembly operations to show in each diagram and then renders action diagrams which explicitly depict the operations required to attach each part.

produce clear drawings of 3D objects and more effective instructions [Tversky et al. Submitted].

The two primary tasks in designing assembly instructions are:

- **Planning:** Most objects can be assembled in a variety of ways. The challenge is to choose a sequence of assembly operations with constraints on performance, a sequence of operations that will be easy for users to understand and follow.
- **Presentation:** There are many ways to depict assembly operations. The challenge is to convey the assembly operations clearly in a series of diagrams.

These tasks have been independently studied in the areas of robotics and visualization. Assembly planning is a classic problem in robotics [Wolter 1989; de Mello and Sanderson 1991; Wilson 1992; Romney et al. 1995]. Given the geometry of each part in the assembly, an assembly planner computes all geometrically feasible sequences of assembly operations. These plans are used by robotic sequences of assembly operations. These plans are used by robotic machine tools for automated manufacturing and are not meant to be seen, understood, or carried out by humans. Most robotic assembly plans would seem unnatural to people assembling everyday objects.

In contrast, automated presentation design systems have been developed in the domain of visualization [Feiner 1985; Mackinlay 1986], with the goal of producing diagrams that are easy for humans to understand. These systems assume that the information to be portrayed is given as input and automatically design an effective diagram to convey that information. Although some of these automated presentation systems have been developed to illustrate 3D

*maneesh@graphics.stanford.edu

Load

Move Paper

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FIG. 17

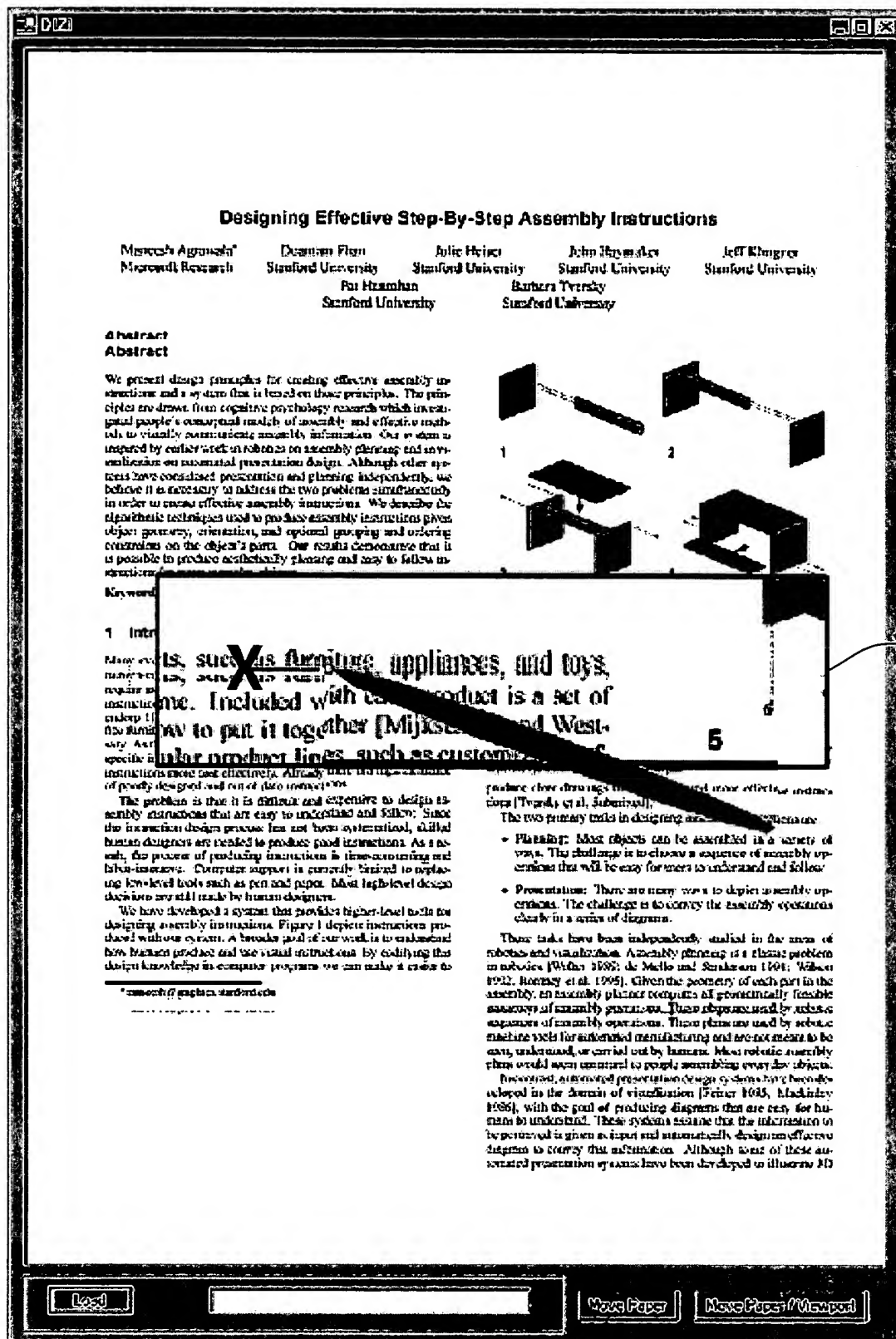


FIG. 18

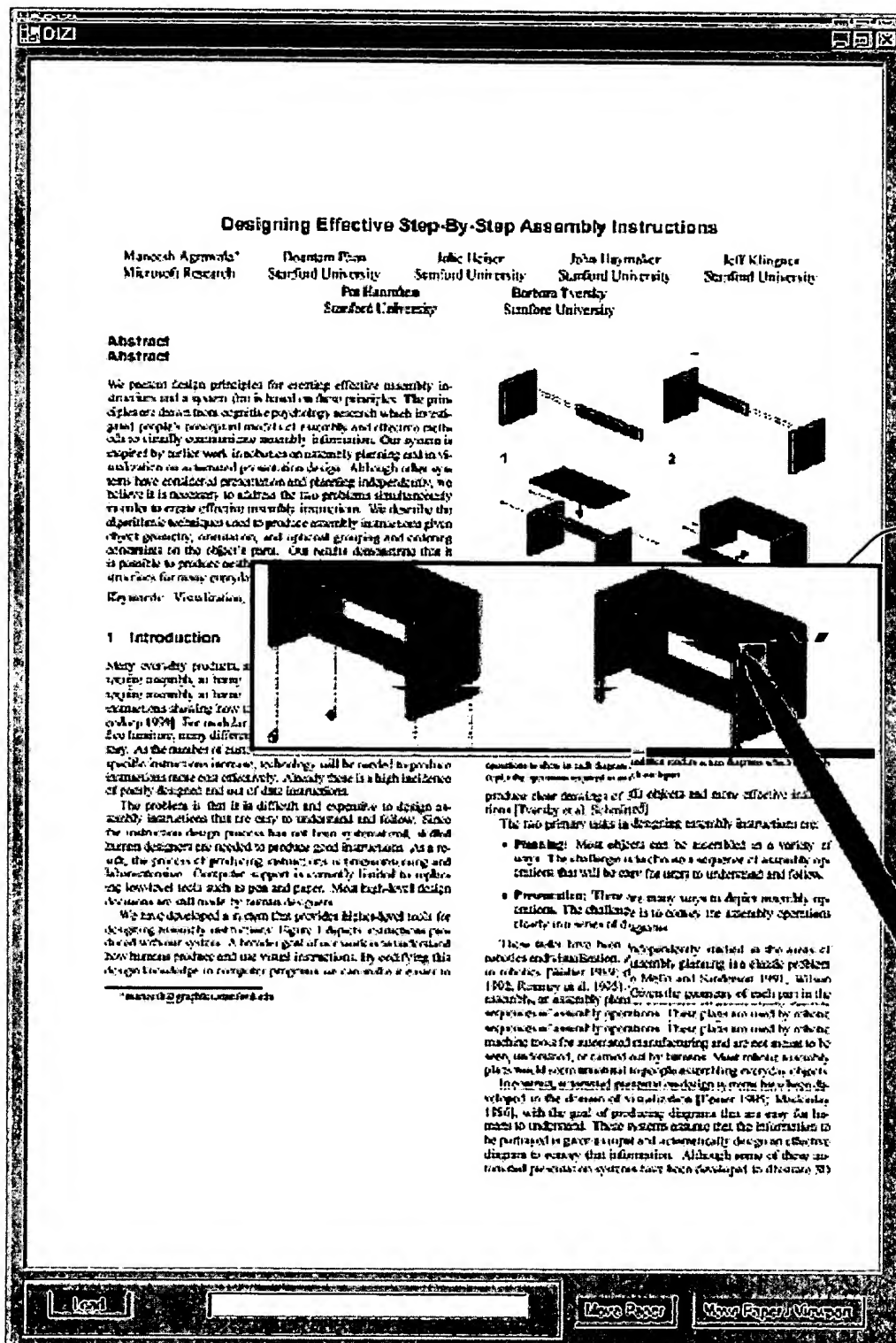


FIG. 19

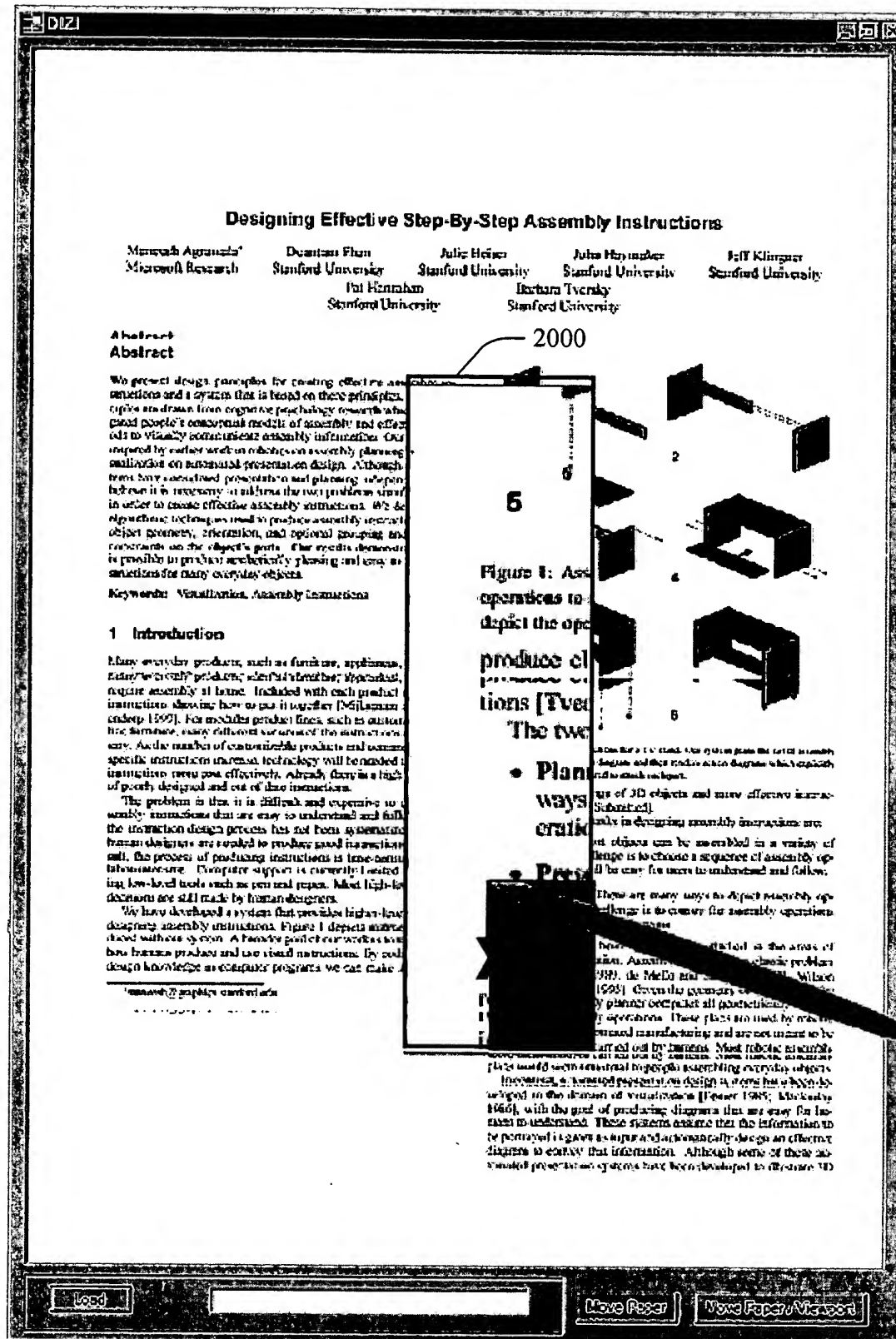


FIG. 20

Designing Effective Step-By-Step Assembly Instructions

Jeff Klingner
Sungard Systems Inc.

Barbara F. Osofsky
Stanford University

X We put
structure
principles

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

products, such as furniture, appliances, and cars, produce a lot of interesting opportunities, but only at home. Included with each product is a set of going back to you is required. Furthermore, the Water modular product line, such as customizable office different versions of the workstation, are versions of customizable products and demand for sales increase, including will be needed to reduce your cost effectively. Already there is a high incidence of use and of data integration.

Keywords: design; design process; design tools; design aids; design methods; design support systems; design automation; design engineering; design methodology; design software; design hardware; design documentation; design communication; design collaboration; design integration; design verification; design validation; design testing; design deployment; design maintenance; design evolution; design reuse; design innovation; design education; design research; design industry; design standards; design regulations; design ethics; design sustainability; design social responsibility.

It made by James Degener.

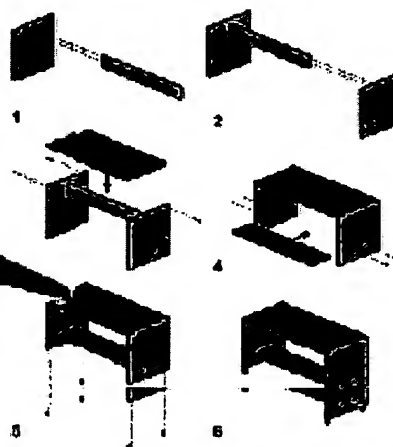
[illegible]

Figure 11: Assembly instructions for a 17" LCD. The screen gives the list of documents, requests to show in each category and then asks to "allow programs which require the device's capabilities" as a means to verify each part.

produce clear drawings of 12 objects and make effective instructions (Liversy et al. 2003a).

The two main parts in developing a research instrument are:

The two primary goals in developing a research instrument are:

- **Planning:** Most objects can be assembled in a variety of ways. The challenge is to choose a sequence of assembly operations that will be easy for users to understand and follow.
- **Pre-visualization:** There are many ways to depict assembly operations. The challenge is to convey the assembly operations clearly in a series of diagrams.

These tasks have been independently studied in the areas of robotics and visualisation. Assembly planning is a classic problem in robotics (Piperno, 1992; DeKlema and Sanderson, 1993; Willson, 1993; Burdick et al., 1993; Chaffin, 1993; Chaffin and Smith, 1993) and, in the area of visualisation, computer-aided assembly planning is commonly planned computer-aided feasibility assessment and assembly operations (Dowd et al., 1993). Such systems were used in assembly operations. These planners used to solve machine tools for assembly and manufacturing, and several means to be used understood or controlled by human. Most robotic assembly plans would occur under the very limited conditions they operate.

In general, structural programming design systems have been developed as the domain of mathematical theory (Bee, 1985; MacIntyre 1986), with the goal of producing diagrams that are easy for humans to understand. These systems assume that the information to be programmed is given as input and formalized by design as effective diagrams to *reduce* the information. Although some of these structural programming systems have been developed to eliminate 311

FIG. 21

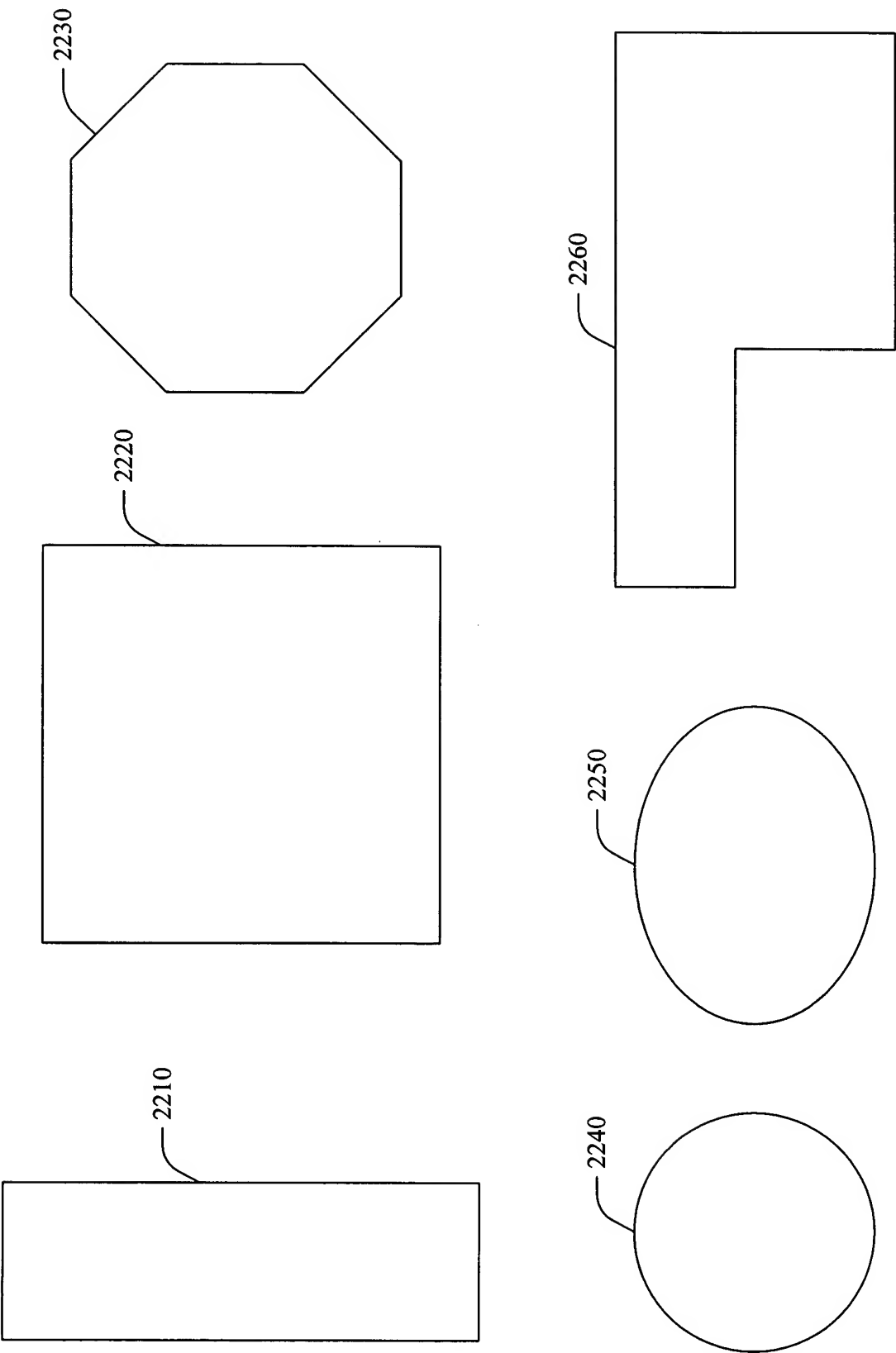


FIG. 22

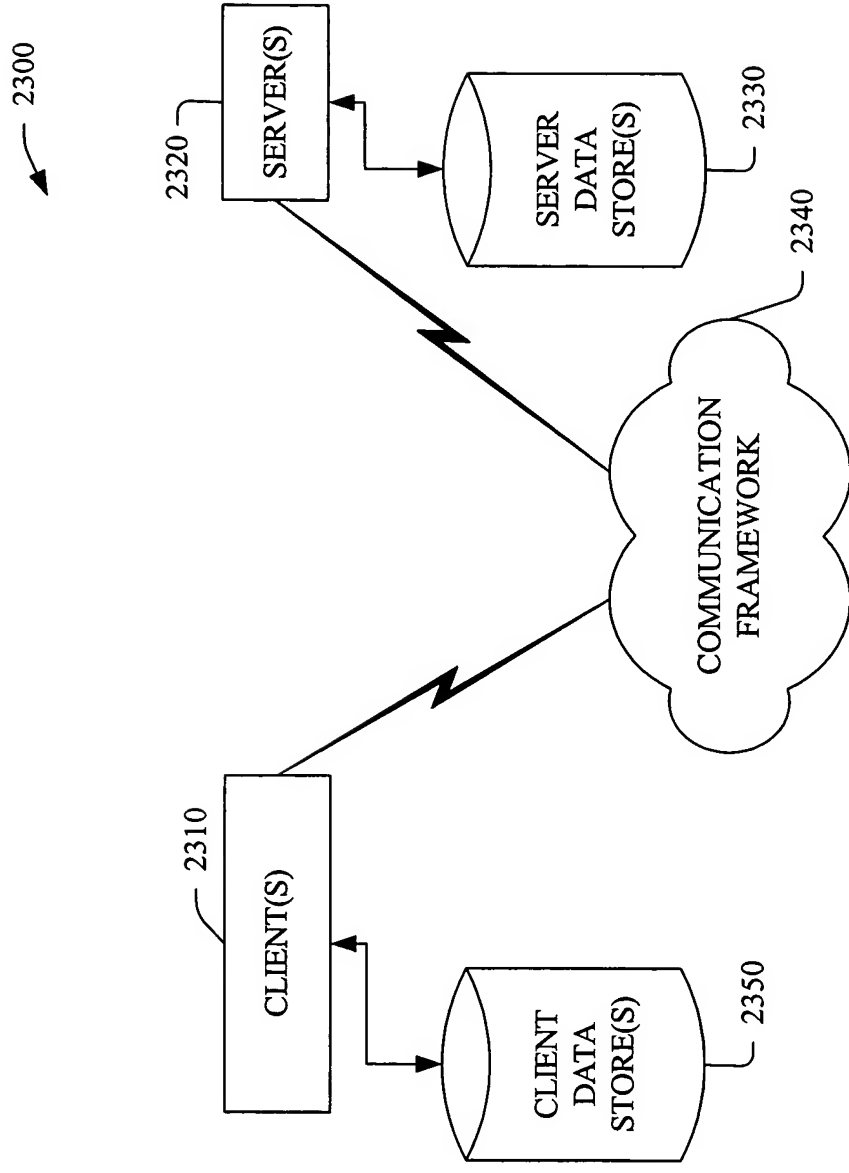


FIG. 23

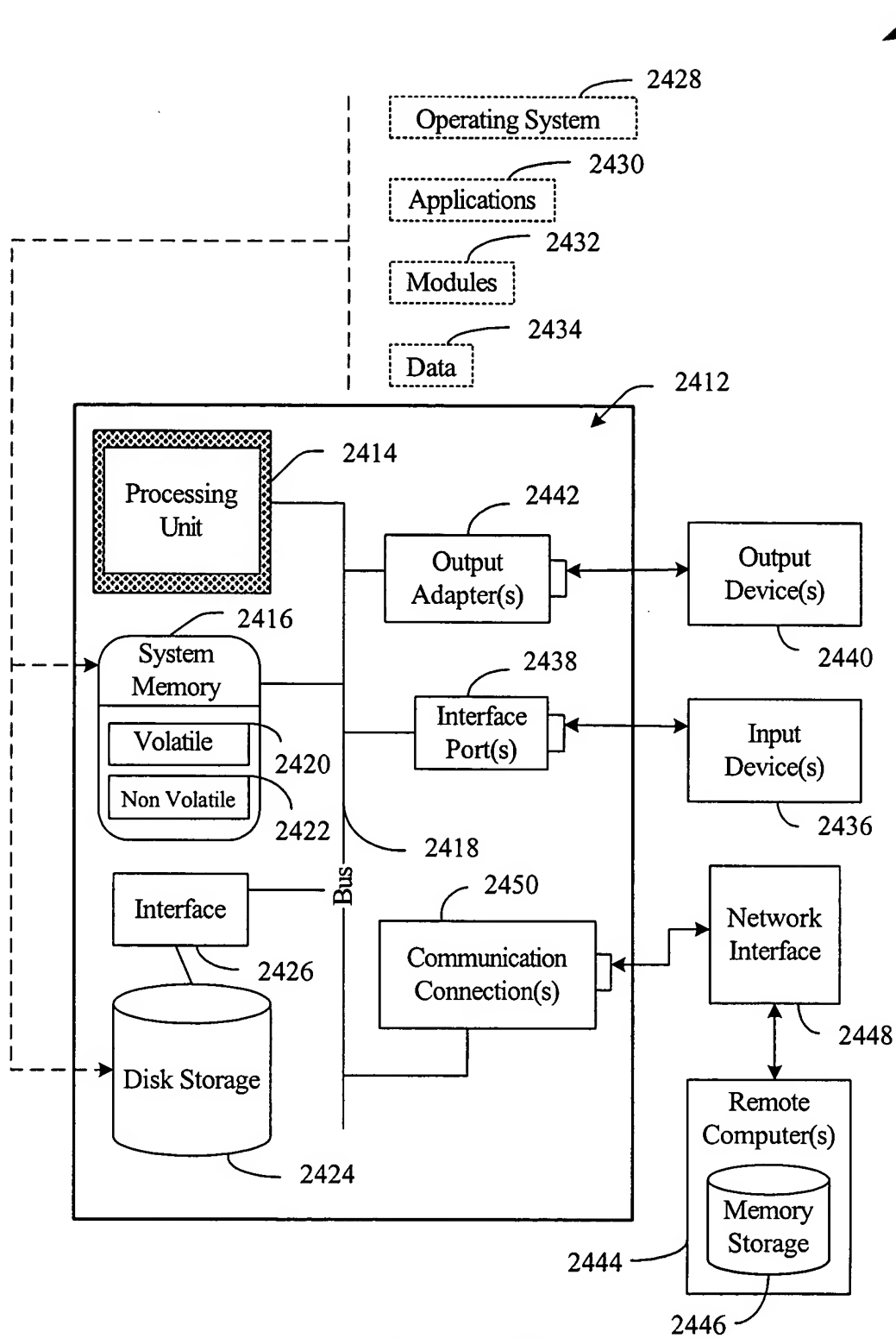


FIG. 24